

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, July 18, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:20 pm on Monday, July 18, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle, and Herbie Bartlett

Guests of the Board: Rebecca Brown & Kim Cowles

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Russ Cumbee, Dawn Steele, Keith Batchelder, Karen Foss

MINUTES: 7/11/16

BOS Minutes 6/27/2016: A formal reading of the July 11, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

Eric made a motion to accept the minutes as written, John seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 7/21/16 - Approved and signed by the Board
Charitable Exemption – Bancroft House
Notice of Public Hearing - Reviewed
Notice of Special Town Meeting - Reviewed

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 - Open Time – Russ Cumbee has submitted a letter to the Board and a certified copy will be coming in the mail. He is requesting minutes about Kim Cowles being appointed Director of Town Properties and Recreation. He is requesting all public and closed session minutes in regards to this position. He wanted to know why this was not filled in an open manner. He is requesting documents within 10 days even tho the law only requires five days. Bernie’s response to Mr. Cumbee was that we would respond within 10 days.

Dawn Steele made a complaint that there is town gossip. Four days after a closed session town meeting a local contractor stopped and informed Dawn that Kim was going to be the Supervisor. She said town gossip is most inappropriate. Dawn said it wasn’t her or anyone else she knows that gave this information. She stated that the same thing happened with the Budget Committee. She also stated that, this is not any way that people should behave.

Karen Foss asked if there is a budgetary impact for Kim’s promotion. Karen is requesting this information.

Dawn Steele stated that she feels that we owe it to the town.

Mr. Cumbee referenced Cronyism.

Peter Grote wanted to know if the promotion had been discussed in an open meeting. Bernie said it was not.

Mr. Cumbee complained that the message on the Administrative Assistant’s answering machine did not say that Sally was on vacation.

3:15 – Rebecca Brown & Kim Cowles – MOU Lawrence Property- Current conditions report. They do not want mountain bikes to go thru the stream. The FCC has had discussions to handle that situation. Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust is doing a baseline documentation report. Rebecca Brown stated that beaver control is allowed. We want to protect the properties downstream. The beaver would be something to be addressed. We will need to put an interim report in to the funder and a time table to be submitted. A final report will be prepared after it closes.

Bernie asked who is responsible for the removal of the beaver? Rebecca responded that it would be the Town's responsibility. This agreement has nothing to do with a dam removal. We are responsible for wetlands and riparian areas. These areas are always changing. Maybe we can send a trapper in to take care of the beaver. Rebecca and Kim think it's a great idea for the Board to walk out there.

These trails may be high and dry. If the dam breached it would cost the campground lots of money. We should go look at the dam and see if it is a problem. We do not want the campground suffering a loss.

Town Staffing Committee – John stated that is it ready to give the Board its recommendations. He requested something in writing that confirms Sally's retirement. Sally will need to submit a letter of retirement. He said that the committee would not move forward until they had that letter. The Board agreed to postpone the meeting until August 8, 2016 at 430pm as long as there is a letter of retirement submitted to the Board of Selectmen from Sally Small.

400 pm – Closed Session – Legal

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Bernie reported the following:

CIP – Karen Foss will be chairing this committee.

Flags – Jean Sauls wanted to know why the flags didn't go down past her house. Bernie answered that she had satisfactorily answered her question at the time.

Ken & Linda Ford – the sidewalks – They would like to see a cross walk at Franconia Community Church. We will need to ask permission of the State. Bernie will call Scott Leslie, referring to this being the spot that the Safe Routes to School Plan was recommended. They also want to state that they thought the colored in crosswalks were safer.

The Board briefly talked about the Stop Ahead Signs but took no action.

4:00 pm – **Closed Session** – Legal and Personnel – As per RSA 91-3:II (e) the Board voted to go into closed session. At 4:20 pm the Board voted to come out of closed session and seal the minutes.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary